

For example, there has been an historic decline in the welfare rolls; increases in employment for low-income single mothers, who comprise the population most likely to need assistance; and a sustained decline in child poverty. Six years ago, the nation's welfare rolls bulged with more than 5.1 million individuals and families. Today, the rolls have decreased tremendously. Since 1996, over 3 million families have left welfare for work. Over 3 million former welfare recipients know the satisfaction of earning a day's pay.

Even with the robust economy of the late 1990s, recent studies confirm that welfare reform is largely responsible for the declining caseload and increase in work. The law's promotion of work made the crucial difference in maximizing opportunities for welfare recipients.

But there is still work for us to do. Too many families receiving assistance are not engaged in activities that will lead to self-sufficiency. This year, Congress must build upon the success of the 1996 law by providing additional options for families on welfare to move into productive jobs, become self-reliant and obtain independence.

As the debate goes forward on the best way to increase personal responsibility, it is important to remember that the true benefactors of welfare reform are young Americans. Because of welfare reform, young Americans are able to see their parents get up each morning and earn a day's pay. Without this very basic ethic, those young people are at a great disadvantage and it becomes difficult for them to escape the cycle of poverty in which their families have lived for generations.

The legislation that is being introduced today, H.R. 4, is based on the Administration's proposal and strengthens work rules to ensure that all families are engaged in a full week of work and other activities that will lead to self-sufficiency. Families will be permitted to combine real work with education and training to help recipients advance in their jobs. In addition, states will need to have plans achieving the work-related goals of TANF. States will be encouraged to coordinate their TANF work programs with the One-Stop Career Center system created through the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, so that former recipients will continue to have access to additional training resources.

Furthermore, we know that families cannot maintain employment without reliable, safe child care for their children. In my home state of California, according to Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California, "Fewer than one out of every five child care centers in California is rated as good quality." That is why this bill will also maintain the unprecedented commitment of federal support for child care by adding \$1 billion in discretionary funding to the Child Care and Development Block Grant, which provides support to state child care programs. In addition, the bill improves the program by helping to target funds set-aside for quality activities and encouraging states to address the cognitive needs of young children so that they are developmentally prepared to enter school. The bill also provides states maximum flexibility in developing child care programs and policies that best meet the needs of children and parents.

Finally, H.R. 4 will provide significant new waiver authority for states to better coordinate a variety of federal programs, including TANF, food stamps, housing assistance and work-

force investment programs that improve services to needy families. This provision will encourage states to continue the experimentation at the state and local level that preceded the federal welfare reform action in 1996. At the same time, it remains important that the local areas created under the Workforce Investment Act be heavily involved in the process. That is why I am pleased that the bill includes provisions ensuring that the local administering entities join in the flexibility applications submitted to the Secretaries. This will, in effect, give the locals veto authority over provisions that they believe will not improve the quality or effectiveness of the programs involved.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation that enhances opportunities for families to move up the economic ladder and access quality child care for their children.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALLEN E. JOHNSON

#### HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2003*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to express warm thanks, congratulations, wishes to Allen E. Johnson, upon his retirement as the city manager of the city of Roseville. His vision and managerial skills have helped develop one of the most pleasant, balanced, well-run communities in California.

After achieving a bachelor of science degree from California State University, Sacramento in 1976, Al began a career in public administration as a personnel analyst for the County of Yuba. Within a few short years, he became director of personnel for Yuba City, where he served from 1979 to 1983. Then, in September 1983, he began a nearly 20-year tenure with the city of Roseville. Rising from director of personnel to administrative services director to city manager, Al has had a significant and lasting impact on the direction in which Roseville has developed.

Most recently, he managed the city's day-to-day operations, its \$300 million budget, and 1,000 employees. He has overseen the city-owned electric operation which weathered California's energy crisis better than most utilities in the state. Additionally, he has guided the proactive expansion of regional wastewater treatment facilities and improvements to local flood control capabilities. Perhaps most importantly, he negotiated agreements for and led the implementation of nine specific plan developments ranging from 500 to 3,000 acres in scope. It is fair to say that he has left lasting fingerprints on the shape and character of the city of Roseville.

Roseville has experienced dynamic growth during Al's tenure. Under his steady leadership, the city has developed several outstanding public amenities, including the recently-dedicated Roseville Civic Center, the new Police Department headquarters, the Roseville Aquatics Center, the Roseville Sports Center, the Woodcreek Oaks Golf Course, and numerous parks and transportation improvements. In addition to the fine city projects which he oversaw, Al has also helped to create an environment in Roseville that fosters high levels of private investment. Perhaps

the most recognizable example of this pro-business attitude he helped foster is the 1.12 million square foot regional mall, known as the Roseville Galleria, which opened in the year 2000. Due to this aggressive economic development and contrary to previous history, the city is now regarded as one of the Sacramento region's premier retail centers and dining destinations.

Noted for his leadership in regional public policy discussions, such as the recent local debate over sales tax revenue distribution, Al has shared his expertise and experience through numerous presentations to public forums, training sessions, and professional conferences. He is also an active member of several professional organizations.

Beyond his professional capacity, Al Johnson has also contributed much to the community through his involvement in various civic and charitable organizations. Among these are the Roseville Chamber of Commerce, Roseville Host Lions Club, the United Way Leadership Council, and the Association for Retarded Citizens.

Roseville, which was once a sleepy railroad town, is now a vibrant, well-planned community with award-winning parks, law enforcement, and city management. It is home to nationally-recognized, high-performing public schools. Its railroad past blends with its newer high-tech industry and thriving commercial centers. Its residential areas include dynamic new developments as well as historic neighborhoods. Despite its increasing affluence, the community has also met its affordable housing needs. In short, Roseville is a model community with a high quality of life and a bright horizon. The clear vision, tough negotiation, and consistent leadership of Al Johnson are a large part of the reason why.

I thank him for his service and wish him well in his future endeavors.

#### OFFICER EUGENIO SOLIS

#### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2003*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a retiring lawman, Agent Eugenio Solis, a unique patriot who has enforced our laws and chased the bad guys his whole career. I am enormously grateful to him for his life's work.

Eugenio Solis has served South Texas with 32 years of law enforcement altogether, both as a patrol officer and as a narcotics agent. He has over 27 years with the Texas Department of Public Safety.

His superiors say he is one of the best undercover agents we have. Undercover work is dangerous, dirty work, and doing it well takes a special talent and untold bravery. Agent Solis can make a deal on the street happen quickly; he has a nose for nasty business. He can expertly hook a bad guy, buy drugs \* \* \* and either get out of there fast, or arrest the bad guys.

Over the years he has established relationships and made contacts with all manner of federal and local officials, offering him sundry resources and contacts that make him effective on the streets.

His legendary exploits are so well known around South Texas that he has even been